

Religious Bulletin.  
December 3, 1923.

The Novena Intentions.

1. The grace of Purity.
2. Notre Dame.
3. Our Mothers.
4. Success in School.
5. Success in Life.
6. Your Special Intentions.

The Need for Purity.

You saw on Saturday's Bulletin that 61% of the people of Indiana have no religion. They may be good people, but they are "floaters" so far as principles are concerned. They follow their consciences, perhaps, but if consciences are formed by the newspapers, magazines, theaters, "the best people" -- and convenience -- the effect is rotten. The trouble is this: the natural law is not clear to them and they have no instruction in the natural law.

The Sin in Impurity.

Impurity is a sin both by the positive word of God and by the law of nature.

Nature's Law.

God could have made all people at once, or He could have strung out His creation through time, creating bodies as well as souls. But he chose to give man a share in His creative power, as part of His image and likeness. God, who wills to people Heaven with Saints, makes His creation of the soul dependent upon the will of a man and a woman. Whoever frustrates God's plan assumes a terrible responsibility.

The Purpose of "Passion".

The bringing of children into the world and their support and education have many disagreeable consequences. The future hardships would deter prospective parents from assuming such an obligation were there no strong present attraction. This attraction is "passion" or "impure pleasure", which is perfectly lawful as a means to a lawful end, in matrimony, but the indulgence of which outside of matrimony -- as an end in itself, and not as a means to an end -- is a grave violation of God's Law. If it were not, few people would assume the burden of bringing children into the world -- to have them turn out dumbbells at the end of some twenty-one years. This is Nature's Law.

Specific Sins.

Any thought, word, look or action, which tends to stimulate passion as an end in itself is mortally sinful,

1. If it has no reasonable cause;
2. If there is a reasonable cause, but consent is given to impure pleasure which has come accidentally.

"Temptation Is Not a Sin."

This leaflet gives the psychology of impure temptations in splendid fashion.